

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!

REACHING OUT, TOUCHING LIVES!

Foundation

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activity that the average citizen will be touched."

The formation of the group was actually inspired by another city institution. Greensboro Public Library Foundation serves as a model for the parks foundation, which was designated last year as a 501(c)(3), meaning contributions made to the tax-exempt organization are tax deductible. Through do-

nations, the foundation helps provide resources for the parks department to improve parks, trails, recreation centers and other myriad facilities.

The land donated to the foundation from the Junior League of Greensboro will be preserved as a passive park. The site was given to the Junior League in 2007 by Starmount Co.

The office parcel is surrounded by the park and contains a house, which the Junior League recently renovated for its headquarters. The passive park will be named in honor of

Starmount's co-founder, the late Blanche Sternberger Benjamin, who was an honorary member of the Junior League.

Foundation board members foresee their role including similar negotiations and encouraging more neighborhood parks.

"The main goal for 2009 is to attract as many contributions as possible to assist Greensboro Parks & Recreation, and to make the public aware that they can donate to a specific project or area of the Parks & Recreation Department," says board chairman Robert Douglas III.

Residents

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Greensboro attorney, former city councilman and newly elected state Sen. Don Vaughan has a decades-long history with Parks & Recreation. As an 8-year-old, Vaughan started going to his neighborhood's College Park Playground in 1961. Then in 1968

he acquired a youth working pass and became the playground's director at age 15. He went on to work in other capacities for the department and says his experiences gave him the desire to seek other ways to serve the public. "I thought I wanted to be a city manager — because of my Parks & Recreation experience."

He left Greensboro to pursue higher education and work on Capitol Hill. After he came back to Greensboro to practice law, he was appointed to the Greensboro

Parks & Recreation Commission, on which he served for seven years, until elected to the Greensboro City Council from 1991-2005. "I was the liaison from the City Council to the Parks & Recreation Department the entire time."

"As you can see, Greensboro Parks & Recreation has been a large part of my life. I learned local government and what it can do to improve the lives of the citizens of Greensboro."

— Compiled by Nicholas Brown

Q&A

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generously given land over the years, along with the fact as a department we've taken every opportunity when money was available to purchase available land."

Q: The first part of the department's mission is to provide diverse year-round leisure opportunities through the preservation of open space, park settings, recreational facilities and programs for the citizens of Greensboro. How is the department doing?

A: "I think we're doing quite well to have the acreage of green space (more than 3,500 acres) that we have and the mileage of trails that we have (more than 80 miles), to be able to have those kind of offerings in a city of 250,000 people."

"Nationally, we've won so many awards, including gold medals. You don't get those unless you're doing quite

well, and we've won three golds, the last in 2002."

Q: The second part of your mission statement: "The benefits of leisure services are especially designed to meet the physical, mental, cultural and social needs of our residents and visitors to our community, while enhancing the overall quality of life in Greensboro." How do you think the department is doing on these objectives?

A: "I don't ever hear a speech about Greensboro that there's not some discussion about the quality of life in Greensboro. It's not a speech about parks and recreation. But you hear the speech about the quality of life, which includes all of those things."

"These are indicators of what we have here and a good portion of it is being accomplished with the work we do out there in the field as well as the folks who work in our facilities. Greensboro is mightily blessed by what is available to families who live here."

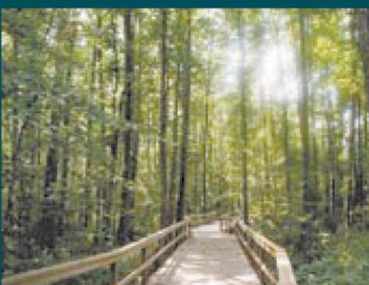
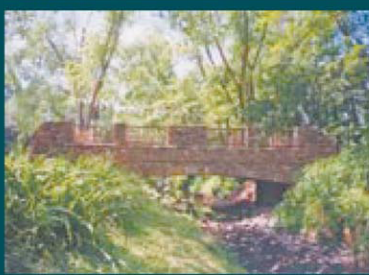
*Greensboro Beautiful
congratulates the Greensboro
Parks & Recreation
Department for 75 years of
service to the citizens of
Greensboro...*

*...and expresses thanks for our 40-year
partnership dedicated to conserving and enhancing
the beauty and ecology of our community through
public and private cooperation.*



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www.greensboro-nc.gov/leisure

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For more information, call
Greensboro Parks & Recreation:

(336) 373-2574



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Touching Lives!*